

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the Abstract with the following.

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~~The present invention is directed towards a~~ A conveyor system for transporting a printing plate in a platemaking system, ~~where the conveyor system~~ includes: a carriage riding on a track and one or more low friction substantially horizontal planar support surfaces provided as a high wear laminate, positioned above the carriage and the track, for supporting the printing plate on the non-emulsion side without the use of rollers, belts, bearings or air cushioning. The carriage includes one or more engagement mechanisms for engaging a bottom, non-emulsion side of the printing plate, ~~said~~ and the track comprising includes an air cylinder. The engagement mechanisms can be, for example, suction cups which engage the plate by a vacuum, suction cups which engage the plate by pressure and adhesion, other adhesive devices, or a mechanical gripper for gripping the plate. The track or linear actuating system is preferably an air cylinder. Alternatively the linear actuating system could include a belt and pulleys, a chain and gears, or a threaded lead screw.

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